

Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC)

Meeting Minutes

December 15, 2014 – 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
K-20 Sites Statewide

Welcome & Introductions

- ELAC Co-Chair, Nelly Mbajah welcomed all participants and conducted a roll call for each site and phone participants.

Infants and Toddlers

- Greg Williamson, DEL Assistant Director of Partnerships and Collaboration presented ELAC's [Infants and Toddler Work Group Recommendations](#) on opportunities to improve the system of B-3 supports for DEL's consideration.

Discussion	<p>Each K-20 site shared highlights from their small group discussions on the following prompts: <i>What are your reactions to the Infants and Toddlers work group recommendations? Please share any additional guidance and input for DEL.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure communities around the state are represented on the Birth-3 subcommittee. • The recommendations seem to apply more to urban settings. Make sure to keep in mind the needs of rural communities. • Ensure the Birth-3 subcommittee uses a family and culturally relevant lens and calls out infant mental health needs as well as the need for multi-lingual and multi-ethnic child care providers. • Consider the need for preparation and professional development for Infant/Toddler teachers. There should be a B-3 endorsement, certifications and specialties. • It would be helpful for families with infants and toddlers to have a family advocate helping them navigate systems and make connections to the services and supports they need. Perhaps • There should be a stronger focus on prenatal and family planning supports. • Make sure to address the needs of families outside of formal services with information and supports. Organizations like Child Care Aware (CCA) could help drive this work. • Connect with and learn from Birth-3 systems work already happening in the state and nationally. Make sure connecting systems and data, so this work does not happen in silo. • There needs to be public awareness campaign to help business owners and stakeholders understand the importance of this crucial time for children, and to let families know what services and supports are available in their community.
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2015 Work Plan

- Evette Jasper, State/Local Coordination Program Manager at DEL, [presented](#) the draft [2015 Work Plan](#) and provided an update on the development [process and timeline](#). She emphasized that the Work Plan is a working document and can be adjusted throughout the year as issues emerge. For example, (DEL) will need guidance on developing the Child Care Development Fund

(CCDF) plan to meet the new requirements of the [Child Care & Development Block Grant \(CCDBG\) Act of 2014](#).

Discussion	<p>Each K-20 site shared highlights from their small group discussions on the following questions: <i>The criteria for the Work Plan include being 1. High impact; 2. Timely; and 3. Entities charged with action have the capacity to act. Based on the criteria, is the draft work plan on target? Are there significant changes to the Draft Work Plan that you think are important for the Executive Committee to consider?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were requests to move the Early Achievers discussion to August or earlier depending on the outcome of the Legislative session. • Advancing Racial Equity should not be the focus of just one work group, but should be embedded as a focus for every work group. ELAC should build on the work Thrive by Five has led with the development of the Racial Equity Theory of Change. • Energy and resources to build family partnerships and engagement should be focused on the existing parent groups and community conversations, rather than a state-level group. • There should be a conversation with ELAC on the 2013 Work Force Report. • ELAC needs to meet with DEL's new Government and Community Relations Director to discuss the 2015 Legislative session prior to the February 3rd meeting, if possible. • Provide more staff support the relationships with the Regional Coalitions and provide guiding questions to Coalitions to effectively engage communities. • Overall, there should be a better way to track how ELAC is doing with providing meaningful guidance to DEL and taking action to track what is getting accomplished.
Next Steps	<p>The deadline for comments and suggested changes to the draft Work Plan is January 22, 2015. DEL will send the final proposed Work Plan with information on how input was addressed and a survey, so ELAC can vote from Jan. 28-30, 2015 on whether or not to adopt the plan for 2015.</p>

Healthiest Next Generation (HNG)

- Adrienne Dorf, DEL's Healthiest Next Generation Program Manager, gave a [presentation](#) on the Healthiest Next Generation Initiative and provided materials on health, nutrition and physical activity in licensed child care settings.
 - [HNG Policy Brief](#)
 - [HNG Recommendations](#)
 - [2013 Survey of Nutrition & Physical Activity in Licensed Child Care](#)
 - [Crosswalk between National Standards & Licensing Rules with WAC reference](#)
 - [Crosswalk between National Standards & Licensing Rules without WAC reference](#)

Discussion	<p>Each K-20 site shared highlights from their small group discussions on the following questions: <i>How would the HNG Initiative impact or fit into the work that you are already doing? How could you promote this initiative in your community, and what resources might you need? Are there specific stakeholders or Coalition member organizations that DEL could partner with on this initiative?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providers need more resources around this in order to better implement. • HNG should connect with current local efforts around the state. For example, Kitsap County and MultiCare's work with 5210 program, community gardens, medical programs, etc.). • Early Care and Education Learning Collaborates should be connected to the
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	<p>existing Early Learning Regional Coalitions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Concerns were raised that standards could be written into the WACs and would turn into rules rather than helpful guidelines.• There should be more work with schools to increase understanding on the importance of recess. Recess should not be eliminated as a disciplinary action.• There should be more focus on helping providers implement health and nutrition standards rather than more training.
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Feedback Loop & Meeting Follow-Up

- Jennifer Jennings-Shaffer shared information about the [Cradle Through College Coalition](#).
- Evette Jasper briefly highlighted the [Feedback Loop](#) form and asked that any questions be sent to elac@del.wa.gov.
- Nelly Mbajah reflected on what was covered in the [2014 ELAC Work Plan](#) during the meeting and what topics to look forward to during the February ELAC meeting, including Advancing Racial Equity and possibly the 2015 Legislative Session.
- Updates sent to ELAC, but not discussed during the meeting:
 - [State Agency and Partner Updates](#)
 - [Early Learning Regional Coalition Updates](#)

Next Steps	DEL will follow up on the possibility of scheduling a Special Meeting in January to address the upcoming 2015 Legislative Session.
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Closing Remarks & Adjourn

- The next regular meeting is scheduled for **February 3rd, 2014** from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., location to be announced.

ELAC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Bianca Bailey – Parent & Parent Advisory Group Member, Department of Early Learning
Luba Bezborodnikova – Associate Superintendent for Early Learning, Puget Sound ESD
Bob Butts – Assistant Superintendent for Early Learning, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
Dee Hirsch – Program and Admissions Director, Discovery Montessori School
Dr. Bette Hyde – Director, Department of Early Learning
Jennifer Jennings-Shaffer – Early Learning Policy Director, Children’s Alliance
Caitlin Jensen – Project Manager, HSSCO, Department of Early Learning
Lois Martin – Director, Community Day Center for Children, Inc.
Nelly Mbajah – Early Childhood Development Program Manager, Department of Social & Health Services
Anne Messerly – Program Associate, Washington Student Achievement Council
Rebecca Timmen – Project LAUNCH State/Early Childhood Coordination Systems Coordinator, DOH
Karen Walker – ESIT Program Administrator, Department of Early Learning
Sam Whiting – President & Chief Executive Officer, Thrive by Five Washington

REGIONAL ADVISORS (RA) IN ATTENDANCE

Susan Barbeau – First 5 FUNdamentals of Pierce County
Yolanda Esquivel – Southeast
Enrica Hampton – SOAR, King County
Karri Livingston – Investing in Children: Coalition Central
Rhodes Lockwood – Olympic-Kitsap Peninsulas
Nancy Spurgeon – North Central
Sandra Szambelan – Inland Northwest Early Learning Alliance, Northeast
Jodi Wall – Southwest Washington Early Learning (SWEL)

ELAC MEMBERS ABSENT

Senator Annette Cleveland – Washington State Senate
RaShelle Davis – Early Learning Policy Advisory, Governor’s Executive Policy Office
Representative Jessyn Farrell – Washington State House of Representatives
Peter Finch – Assistant Superintendent, West Valley School District
Representative Larry Haler – Washington State House of Representatives
Lindsay Lanham – Policy Associate, State Board for Community & Technical Colleges
Jennifer Ross – Parent
Jeromy Sullivan – Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe Chairman
Lisa Webb – Family Child Care Provider
VACANT – Washington State Senate

REGIONAL ADVISORS (RA) ABSENT

Wilanne Ollila-Perry – Northwest
Dan Teuteberg – Visions for Early Learning, West Central